

(a) whether any scheme is under consideration of the Union Government to link Jaisalmer and Bikaner cities of Rajasthan with air services in the public or private sector;

(b) if so, the time by which these services are likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Alliance Air has plans to airlink Jaisalmer in its winter schedule of 1997, subject to availability of infrastructural facilities. At present, Indian Airlines/Alliance Air have no plan to airlink Bikaner. Private Operators with suitable aircraft are, however, being encouraged to add more stations including Jaisalmer and Bikaner in their network subject to viability.

[English]

Development of Aircraft by HAL

787. SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has a proposal to develop a 50 seater aircraft in foreign collaboration;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N SOMU) : (a) to (c) M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has addressed overseas aircraft manufacturers to ascertain their interest in establishing co-production of 50 seater aircraft in India with HAL. Some preliminary responses have been received. Schedules will arise only on confirm and complete responses.

Historical Monuments

788. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated any new plan to develop, protect and preserve places of historical importance;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether any renovation projects have been undertaken in archaeological museums; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the centrally protected monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India are preserved and developed as per archaeological norms and according to the specific requirements of each monuments.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The displays in the archaeological museums are, however, improved periodically.

[Translation]

Teaching of English Language

789. SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any national policy has been worked out as to from which class the children should be taught English;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether this policy is being followed in toto by all the affiliated institutions;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to evolve a national policy in this regard;

(d) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the book 'Let's Learn English' (Book-Two Special series) being taught in class second in the Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navyug schools and other schools, though this book has been recommended to be taught in class third;

(e) if so, whether the Government have ever thought as to how a six years old child can learn this book;

(f) if so, the reasons for imposing English from the elementary class; and

(g) whether any measures are being taken by the Union Government to reduce the burden on school children and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (c) The national policy in regard to languages is embodied the Three Language Formula. However, there are variations in the implementation of this policy in various States.

(d) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(g) The Government of India had set up a National Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Yash Pal, former Chairman, University Grants Commission to advise on the ways and means to reduce academic burden on school students. In the 50th meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE) held on 2.3.94, State Governments expressed their broad agreement with the recommendations of the Yash Pal Committee. The consensus of such views was identified and the course of action to be adopted by the State Governments suggested to them.

[*English*]

SC/ST Person on Board of Directors of ITDC

790. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any SC/ST person was appointed on the Board of Directors of India Tourism Development Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The existing rules do not specifically provide any reservation in the matter of appointment of Directors on the Board of ITDC.

Development of National Highways in Maharashtra

791. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received financial assistance from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank for developing National Highways in Maharashtra State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Four laning and strengthening of existing two lane road in Manor—Bassein Creek section (length 58 km.) of NH 8 in Maharashtra is included in Second National Highway Project under World Bank loan assistance. The estimated cost of the project is about Rs. 217 crore. No financial assistance has been

received from Asian Development Bank for developing National Highways in Maharashtra.

[*Translation*]

Hotels for Middle Class

792. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are unable to construct hotels for middle class due to the non-availability of land;

(b) if so, the places for which the Government have decided to construct hotels for the middle class during the last two years; and

(c) the price at which the land was available at these places and the price at which the Government intended to purchase it?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :

(a) to (c) Construction of hotels is primarily a private sector activity. In order to encourage construction of such accommodation, the Government of India provides incentives like interest subsidy which is available to one, two and three star hotels on loans taken from specified financial institutions, reduced duty on import of project equipment/capital goods and raw materials etc. The Government also offers exemptions under Income Tax Act.

Petrol Pump

793. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Petrol Pumps set up in Madhya Pradesh and the cases pending for setting up them;

(b) whether there is any scheme to set up new Petrol Pumps in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of Petrol Pumps allotted to the people belonging to Scheduled Castes/Tribes and backward class out of them;

(e) whether the system of reservation has been followed in the allotment of the above petrol pumps;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which the sanction are likely to be accorded for setting up new Petrol Pumps?.